

# Review of: "Ecological diversity, structure and exploitation of rattan stands according to a disturbance gradient around the Nkoltang forest, Estuary province of Gabon"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study inventoried rattan species at three forest sites in Nkoltang, Gabon, differing in disturbance intensity and proximity to fringe communities. The authors analyzed the structure of the species in relation to their prevailing environment. The study's design was appropriate, and the results were well presented. Specific comments are below;

## ABSTRACT:

It clearly captures the results and their management implications. Bravo!

## INTRODUCTION:

It was a bit lengthy and did not feature enough current studies to determine the state-of-the-art. While it was appropriate to reference studies on rattan species in Asia, I believe there were too many, as the current study was conducted in Central Africa, and thus previous studies in the region should have been intensively explored. NTFPs should be spelt out in the first mention before abbreviation, subsequently. This section also requires improvement in paragraphing to address situations where the same line of argument was split into several disjointed paragraphs.

## METHODS AND RESULTS

The authors presented the results nicely to meet the study objectives. In my opinion, the Tables are too small and illegible. The figures require the translation of French words to English (e.g., cash, perturbe, peu, moyenne, etc.), or at least, provide English versions of the words in the legend to enable non-Francophone readers to appreciate the meaning.

## DISCUSSION

The discussion related the findings very well to previous studies. As stated earlier, previous studies on the African continent were not adequately explored. Hence, Defo (2015) was the go-to reference in the discussion. I recommend the

article below for further perspectives.

Zon, A.O., Kouassi, E.K. & Ouédraogo (2021). A. Current knowledge and future directions on West African wild palms: an analytical review for its conservation and domestication in the context of climate change and human pressures. *Genet Resour Crop Evol* 68, 1731–1745 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-021-01158-9>